

the capital of the United States of America.

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Chairman, I rise to congratulate my colleagues, Chairman ISTOOK and Ranking Member MORAN, on a fine bill that they have put together.

Though I disagree with certain portions of it—specifically those prohibiting the use of local funds for abortion and the local domestic partner law—I believe the bill is generally even handed.

There is one issue I wish to raise, however, that is not addressed in this bill and has never, to my knowledge been raised before: pit bulls.

the recent death of a veteran firefighter on the DC fire squad because of a pit bull attack during a fire run is only the latest of tragedies associated with vicious pit bull attacks.

I am an animal lover and for the most part will give animals the benefit of the doubt for their right to share this planet with us. I abhor animal cruelty and am grateful for the support I received from this House in passing a partial ban on steel-jaw leghold just traps two weeks ago.

But this city has a problem with maintaining proper control over pit bulls and Firefighter Robinson was only the most recent addition to a sad list of statistics.

According to Mary Healy, Executive Director of the Washington Humane Society, over 1/3 of all the animals that come into their animal shelters every year is a pit bull. Just think of it: of all the breeds of all the dogs out there, one breed overwhelmingly dominates like no other. These dogs are turned in or found or captured because they are not suitable as pets. It is the nature of this beast to be other-animal aggressive which leads to unprovoked attacks on other dogs and by proximity, on people. As such they pose a public health and safety threat and for this reason the Humane Society supports full ban on pit bulls.

Originally I had considered offering an amendment to this bill specifically calling on the DC Council to do something about this problem. I will refrain from doing so only because I have learned that the DC Council is moving in the right direction on this issue due to the leadership of Councilmember Carol Schwartz. Ms. Schwartz in March introduced strong legislation that would put sensible restrictions on pit bull ownership in the District. I applaud her vision and dedication to solving this troublesome aspect of life in DC. I understand from Councilmember Schwartz that she has been guaranteed a hearing in October by Sandy Allen, Councilmember from War 8 and Chairperson of the Council Committee on Human Services. I fully hope to see the Council enact Ms. Schwartz's legislation on an emergency basis and work toward a more permanent solution—maybe even an out-and-out ban like that enacted in Prince Georges County, Maryland—within the next several months.

We can't wait for the next headline to tell us of the next tragedy of a person hurt or maimed or even killed by these vicious dogs. Firefighter Robinson gave his life; Councilmember Schwartz has the answer. Congress should honor the memory of fireman Robinson by during the Council to pass Ms. Schwartz's bill . . . and if the Council won't act then I will see that Congress does.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to comment on the District of Columbia Appropriations legislation. I commend the sub-

committee, its Chairman [Mr. ISTOOK] and the full committee for their work on this important legislation.

As someone with a strong interest in reducing substance abuse through demand reduction—and as co-chairman of the Speaker's Working Group for a Drug-Free America—I'd like to comment on a provision of this legislation that is of particular interest to the drug prevention and education community.

DRUG TESTING FOR PRISONERS AND PAROLEES

I commend the gentleman from Oklahoma for including funding in this program for universal drug testing and screening of incarcerated prisoners and parolees. Today, 80% of incarcerated prisoners in this nation were either under the influence or drugs or alcohol, were regular drug users or violated drug and alcohol laws at the time they committed their crimes. Remarkably, in 1996, more than 1.5 million were arrested for substance abuse-related offenses. Worse yet, those who go to prison without effective treatment for their addiction tend to wind up back in the criminal justice system in the future.

Substance abuse contributes to many of our worst social ills—violence, child and spousal abuse, robbery, theft and vandalism. As a result, our judicial system is overwhelmed with substance abusers. You would think, when a criminal is locked up for a drug-related offense, the prison itself would be a drug-free environment and the prisoner would be forced to get drug treatment.

But our prisons are often bastions of drug abuse. Only 13% of prisoners receive any sort of treatment for their drug problem at all and many of those treatment programs are considered inadequate.

Unfortunately, the drug habits of thousands of these individuals continue and sometimes worsen in prison. So it's no surprise that, according to statistics from the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse, 50% of state parole and probation violators were under the influence of drugs, alcohol or both when they committed their new offense. In other words, these individuals continue to be a menace to society because their drug problems are not addressed behind bars.

There are a number of steps we can take to stop the revolving door of incarceration, parole and re-arrest—including the successful drug courts at the local level that use the threat of prison to get people to address their drug habits through treatment. At the national level, a recent Federal Bureau of Prisons study showed that inmates who receive treatment are 73% less likely to be re-arrested than untreated inmates.

That's why I introduced the Drug-Free Prisons and Jails Act last year, which established a model program for comprehensive substance abuse treatment in the criminal justice system to reduce drug abuse, drug-related crime and the costs associated with incarceration.

And that's why I'm pleased to support the drug testing program in this legislation before us today. By identifying criminals and parolees in the District of Columbia with drug addiction problems, we will help to reduce crime in our nation's capital—and we will stop the costly revolving door of drug addiction and incarceration in the DC prison system.

Mr. ISTOOK. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HILL of Montana) having assumed the chair, Mr. BEREUTER, Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2587) making appropriations for the government of the District of Columbia and other activities chargeable in whole or in part against revenues of said District for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

□ 2145

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE GARY L. ACKERMAN, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The Speaker pro tempore (Mr. Hill of Montana) laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable Gary L. ACKERMAN, Member of Congress:

JULY 23, 1999.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to formally notify you pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House that I received a subpoena for documents and testimony issued by the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined to comply with the subpoena to the extent that it is consistent with Rule VIII.

Sincerely,

GARY L. ACKERMAN,
Member of Congress.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO ATTEND THE FUNERAL OF THE LATE HONORABLE GEORGE E. BROWN, JR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the provisions of House Resolution 252, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the committee to attend the funeral of the late George E. Brown, Jr.

Mr. STARK, California.
Mr. HASTERT, Illinois.
Mr. GEPHARDT, Missouri.
Mr. BONIOR, Michigan.
Mr. GEORGE MILLER, California.
Mr. WAXMAN, California.
Mr. DIXON, California.
Mr. LEWIS, California.
Mr. MATSUI, California.
Mr. THOMAS, California.
Mr. DRIER, California.
Mr. HUNTER, California.
Mr. LANTOS, California.
Mr. MARTINEZ, California.
Mr. BERMAN, California.
Mr. PACKARD, California.
Mr. GALLEGLY, California.
Mr. HERGER, California.
Ms. PELOSI, California.
Mr. COX, California.
Mr. ROHRBACHER, California.
Mr. CONDIT, California.